

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05 /093 W
-----010903 281103Z /21

R 280917Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4950
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1821

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR XF LE MO
SUBJECT: GOM ON PROPOSED ARAB SUMMIT

1. AFTER AN UNUSUALLY LONG PUBLIC SILENCE, GOM HAS PRONOUNCED
ITSELF ON THE PROPOSED ME SUMMIT. FONMIN BOUCETTA, SPEAKING
TO THE PRESS BEFORE HIS MARCH 26 DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO TO ATTEND
THE ARABA LEAGUE FONMINS MEETING, REFERRED TO JORDANIAN
AND N. YEMENI CALLS FOR SUMMIT AND TO THE RECENT VISIT OF
JORDANIAN MIN STATE FOR FONAFF HASSAN IBRAHIM. BOUCETTA SAID
KING HAD INFORMED BOTH THE JORDANIAN EMISSARY AND THE SECGEN
OF THE ARAB LEAGUE THAT MOROCCO "AGREED IN PRINCIPLE" TO ATTEND
AN ARAB SUMMIT "IF IT WOULD RESULT IN A RESTRENGTHENING OF
ARAB RANKS." BOUCETTA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A MOROCCAN MISSION
TO LEBANON WOULD LEAVE THE SAME DAY TO "EVALUATE THE VOLUME OF
MOROCCAN AID TO THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND TO THE LEBANESE
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GOVERNMENT."

2. IT IS UNCLEAR WHY MOROCCO DELAYED SO LONG IN RESPONDING TO
THE SUMMIT CALLS, AND WHY ITS RESPONSE IS SO EQUIVOCAL. THIS
MAY BE DUE TO GUNSHYNESS AFTER ITS FORWARD POSITION ON THE SADAT
INITIATIVE, AND RELUCTANCE TO PROVOKE FURTHER THE PLO AND
REJECTIONISTS (READ SYRIA).

3. ON THE GOM MISSION TO LEBANON, MOROCCO HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES UPROOTED BY THE RECENT ISRAELI INCURSION. WHILE A MOROCCAN TROOP CONTINGENT TO ADF (BEIRUT 1593 NOTAL) CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RULED OUT, WE BELIEVE SUCH A MOVE MOST UNLIKELY UNLESS HASSAN SEES SOME PARTICULAR MILEAGE HE CAN GAIN WITH PLO TO COMPENSATE FOR COMMITTING HIS TROOPS TO A SYRIAN DOMINATED ADF. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT MOROCCO HAS DECLINED IN THE PAST, BECAUSE OF CONTINUIN PROBLEMS IN THE SAHARA. MISSION TO LEBANON SEEMS MORE LIKELY AN EFFORT TO KEEP GOM'S CHANNELS OPEN TO THE PALESTINIANS AND TO KEEP ITS DISTANT HAND IN MIDDLE EASTERN EVENTS.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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